

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-03 PA-02 INR-10  
/048 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR  
APPROVED BY AF/P:RWHOLLIDAY  
-----114624 240435Z /42

O 232239Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
XMT AMEMBASSY FREETOWN  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY BISSAU  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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JIDDA FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 23,  
1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON  
BRIEFING, MARCH 23, 1978:

Q: IS ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE STILL IN SOMALIA?

A: I JUST HEARD THIS MORNING THAT HE HAS LEFT AND HE IS  
GOING ON WITH HIS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED TRAVEL TO SAUDI  
ARABIA.

Q: HAS HE CONCLUDED ANY AGREEMENTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT  
THERE REGARDING ARMS SUPPLIES OR ECONOMIC AID?

A: I THINK WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM TO GET  
BACK, TO GIVE YOU THE DEFINITIVE ANSWER. MY IMPRESSION  
IS THAT THERE IS NOTHING THAT I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THAT  
TODAY IN ANY CASE, BOB.

Q: THERE ARE SOME COMMENTS FROM SOMALI SOURCES (I THINK  
THEY WERE EMBASSY SOURCES OUT OF THE COUNTRY) THAT THE  
UNITED STATES HAS FAILED IN ITS PROMISE TO GUARANTEE THE  
SAFETY OF THE WESTERN SOMALI GUERRILLAS; AND THAT  
ETHIOPIANS ARE BEHEADING THEM AND DOING OTHER NASTY THINGS  
TO THEM IN THE OGADEN REGION. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMA-  
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TION ON THAT?

AND WAS THERE ANY UNDERTAKING BY THE UNITED STATES TO  
GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THOSE GUERRILLAS?

A: I DON'T THINK WE UNDERTOOK TO "GUARANTEE" -- I  
THINK THAT AT ONE POINT WE SUGGESTED THERE MIGHT BE  
NEUTRAL OBSERVERS SENT IN TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT WAS  
HAPPENING IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FIGHTING.

I CAN'T CONFIRM IN THE WAY OF INDEPENDENT INFORMATION,  
THE REPORTS THAT YOU MENTIONED ABOUT THE INDIGNITIES  
BEING PERFORMED IN THE OGADEN.

OF COURSE I HAVE SEEN THE SAME STORIES.

Q: ON THAT, THERE WAS POSTED AN ANSWER YESTERDAY SAYING  
THAT THE NEED OF THESE OBSERVERS WASN'T TOO URGENT  
ANYMORE BECAUSE -- I THINK IT SAID THAT SOMALIA AND  
ETHIOPIA ARE "BINDING THE WOUNDS OF WAR."

CAN YOU GIVE SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT THEY ARE DOING TO BD

THE WOUNDS OF WAR?

A: I CAN PROBABLY LOOK INTO THAT AND TRY TO GIVE YOU  
SOME. YES. I JUST MERELY DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION  
HERE NOW.

I DON'T THINK WE WOULD HAVE MADE THE STATEMENT BASED ON  
HOT AIR.

Q: -- I WAS WONDERING IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS A  
STRONG STATEMENT ON THIS SUPPRESSION OF THE FREEDOM OF  
THE PRESS (IN PAKISTAN) AS IT DID ALMOST INSTANTLY WHEN  
THE VORSTER GOVERNMENT CLOSED DOWN A BLACK NEWSPAPER  
IN JOHANNESBURG.  
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A: NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY KIND OF A STATEMENT, STRONG OR  
OTHERWISE.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 23, 1978 FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STAT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, XF  
**To:** JIDDA LONDON MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014